

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Richard L. Treanor (Reg. No. 36,379) on May 21, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cured epoxy resin comprising a deagglomerated barium sulphate dispersed within said cured epoxy resin, said deagglomerated barium sulfate comprising primary and secondary barium sulfate particles, a crystallization inhibitor, and a dispersant; wherein the primary particles have an average primary particle size of $< 0.5 \mu\text{m}$,

wherein the dispersant sterically prevents reagglomeration of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles and comprises groups which are able to interact with the surface of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles, the dispersant being substituted by polar groups which endow the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles with a hydrophilicized surface, which permit the coupling of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles to or into the epoxide and, accompanying the coupling, a further deagglomeration.

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2. (Currently Amended) The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, wherein the deagglomerated barium sulphate is present in an amount of 0.1 to 50% by weight of the cured epoxy resin.

3. (Currently Amended) The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, wherein the primary barium sulphate particles have an average primary particle size of from 0.01 μm to less than 0.5 μm .

12. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a precursor of a cured epoxy resin and a deagglomerated barium sulphate, said deagglomerated barium sulfate comprising primary and secondary barium sulfate particles, a crystallization inhibitor, and a dispersant; wherein the primary particles have an average primary particle size of $< 0.5 \mu\text{m}$,

wherein the dispersant sterically prevents reagglomeration of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles and comprises groups which are able to interact with the surface of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles, the dispersant being substituted by polar groups which endow the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles with a hydrophilicized surface, which permit the coupling of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles to or into the epoxide and, accompanying the coupling, a further deagglomeration.

13. (Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim 12, wherein the deagglomerated barium sulphate is present in an amount of 0.1 to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

14. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising uncured epoxy resin and a deagglomerated barium sulphate, said deagglomerated barium sulfate comprising primary and secondary barium sulfate particles, a crystallization inhibitor, and a dispersant; wherein the primary particles have an average primary particle size of $< 0.5 \mu\text{m}$,

wherein the dispersant sterically prevents reagglomeration of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles and comprises groups which are able to interact with the surface of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles, the dispersant being substituted by polar groups which endow the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles with a hydrophilicized surface, which permit the coupling of the primary and secondary barium sulphate particles to or into the epoxide and, accompanying the coupling, a further deagglomeration.

15. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 14, wherein the deagglomerated barium sulphate is present in an amount of 0.1 to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the composition.

16. (Currently Amended) A process for producing the cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, said process comprising: dispersing the deagglomerated barium sulphate in a precursor of the cured epoxy resin prior to curing; and curing the epoxy resin.

18. (Currently Amended) The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, wherein the primary barium sulphate particles have an average primary particle size of $< 0.1 \mu\text{m}$.

20. (Currently Amended) The cured epoxy resin according to Claim 1, obtained by dispersing the deagglomerated barium sulphate in a precursor of the cured epoxy resin prior to curing.

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DETAILED ALLOWANCE

Pending Claims

Claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-20, 22, and 23 are pending.

Response to Amendment

1. The rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 101 & 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, has been rendered moot by the cancellation of this claim.
2. The rejection of claims 4 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, has been overcome by amendment.
3. The rejection of claims 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, has been overcome by amendment.
4. The rejection of claims 17 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosomi et al. (US Pat. No. 5,976,699) in view of Hardinghaus et al. (US 2003/0124048) has been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.
5. The rejection of claims 1-6, 9-16, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosomi et al. (US Pat. No. 5,976,699) in view of Hardinghaus et al. (US 2003/0124048) has been overcome by amendment.
6. The provisional rejection of claims 12-15 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the combined limitations of claims 26, 43, and 53 of copending Application No. 11/916,340 (US 2009/0163638) has been overcome by amendment.

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7. The provisional rejection of claims 12-15 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the combined limitations of claims 1, 15, and 25 of copending Application No. 10/581,685 (US 2007/0140938) has been overcome by amendment.

8. The provisional rejection of claims 12-15 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the combined limitations of claims 1-36 (*particularly claims 1, 14 and 17-30*) of copending Application No. 10/596,007 (US 2007/0167535) has been overcome by amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-20, 22, and 23 are allowed. Applicant has amended the allowable subject matter of claim 7 into independent claims 1, 12, and 14.

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Communication

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Feely whose telephone number is (571)272-1086. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Y. Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael J Feely/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796

May 24, 2010